Subsidy for export to pepper and cardamom'

2362. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to give export subsidy for export of pepper and cardamom;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons' therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) A proposal has been formulated for providing a WTO compatible subsidy with a view to cover cost of upgrading, internal transport and international freight in the export of pepper.

(c) Does not arise.

Request for cancellation of import licences of arecanut and cocoa

2363. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Arecanut and Cocoa Marketing and Processing Associations have requested for cancellation of licences for importing arecanut and cocoa products; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India constituted an Expert Committee, under the Chairmanship of Dr. P. Rethinam, Former Chairman, Coconut Development Board. Considering the present trend of fall in prices, as well as the problems of arecanut farmers, as represented by various organizations, Government of India raised the import duty of arecanut from 35% to 100% to restrict import. Further instructions have been given to the customs officials to maintain vigil to prevent illegal entry of arecanut into the country.